

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1859

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending John Lesley Petterson.

WHEREAS, John Petterson, the Kansas capitol reporter for the Kansas City Star, is retiring at the end of June, 2004, and this will be his final legislative session to cover; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Petterson's work history encompasses nearly four decades of reporting the news at the Kansas statehouse. From 1962 to 1967 he was a reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal, including coverage of the 1967 legislative session. From 1967 to 1983 he was the capitol reporter for the Wichita Eagle and Beacon and commenced in 1983 as the capitol reporter for the Kansas City Times and the Kansas City Star. He has reported on 37 legislative sessions through the administrations of seven governors: Robert Docking, Robert Bennett, John Carlin, Mike Hayden, Joan Finney, Bill Graves and Kathleen Sebelius; and

WHEREAS, John followed his father, C. J. "Jim" Petterson, in the newspaper business. His father was a statehouse reporter for the Associated Press, the Wichita Beacon and the Topeka Daily Capital and the Topeka State Journal; and

WHEREAS, John Petterson was born January 21, 1939, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Topeka High School and Kansas State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. He married Helen Lowrey in 1983; she is now retired and volunteers at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. His son, Jim, is the communications director for The Nature Conservancy; his son, Jeff, is program director for V-100, a Topeka radio station; and his stepson, Robert Owen, is conducting post-doctoral research at the University of Michigan. He has two grandchildren, Caroline Petterson, 3, and John Alexander "Jack" Petterson, 2; and

WHEREAS, John's retirement plans include backpacking with annual treks to Colorado and Utah with the Prairie Packers. He enjoys working with ceramics and a potter's wheel and hopes to monitor art classes at Washburn University in his retirement. He and his wife plan to travel extensively, beginning this summer with an extended trip to Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Petterson has enjoyed the confidence of a myriad of legislators and officials in the executive branch of government. His articles regarding pending legislation have been widely read and recognized for their insight and completeness: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend John Lesley Petterson for four decades of professional service to the media and to the citizens of Kansas who have relied on his writings. We wish him well in his future activities; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to John Petterson, Kansas City Star office, statehouse.

Senate Resolution No. 1859 was sponsored by Senators Kerr, Adkins, Allen, Barnett, Barone, Betts, Brownlee, Brungardt, Buhler, Bunten, Clark, Corbin, Donovan, Downey, Emler, Gilstrap, Goodwin, Haley, Helgerson, Hensley, Huelskamp, Jackson, Jordan, Journey, Lee, Lyon, Morris, O'Connor, Oleen, Pugh, Salmans, Schmidt, Schodorf, Steineger, Taddiken, Teichman, Tyson, Umbarger, Vratil and Wagle.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*